Toronto women throng Million Women March

Eight busloads and counting heading for D.C.

metroNEWS

Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 | High -7°C/Low -8°C Sunny

URBAN ETIQUETTE

You gotta see the baby! (Even if you dislike babies)

metroVIEWS

AIRBNB CALLS THIS A TOP TRAVEL DESTINATION

EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

But even residents of Toronto's Rockcliffe-Smythe neighbourhood are like, really?

metroNEWS

Worn out by politics

We need to view fashion as powerful economic engine in time of Trump

Nichole Jankowski
For Metro
THE RETAIL INSIDER

Think back on the year in fashion and it probably looks something like this: Beyoncé in Formation or the latex look she served at the Met Gala, everything Kim Kardashian, Rihanna in a Saint Laurent red heart-shaped fox fur coat or Demna Gvasalia's debut as creative director of Balenciaga.

Consumers are less likely to ponder how the political and economic instability caused by events like Donald Trump's election victory, the Paris terror attack or the shocking Brexit vote impacted spending patterns, or how a bombing in Istanbul's garment district affected fashion's supply chain.

We're taught to think fashion and politics look like Michelle Obama and her gold Versace gown at the Obama's final state dinner, Sophie Trudeau wearing Canadian designer at the White House or Hillary Clinton in an Armani jacket reportedly worth $16,000 giving a speech on income equality.

We giddily accept clickbait photo galleries-cum-news stories that reinforce a perception that fashion is only ornamental, when in truth it is a $2.4-trillion industry with its own world summits, coalitions, trade agreements and media outlets.

An estimated 57.8 million people are employed in the manufacture of apparel and textiles alone, to say nothing of the people working in the footwear sector or the countless millions employed in the creative, design, shipping, retail and business sectors of what is the second dirtiest industry in the world (only after oil).

Continued on page 6

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Man discovers sisters he saved from fire in 1951 are his next-door neighbours. **Canada**

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"I'm inspired even when people look and give a half smile. It's the connection to the people. They're in a busy mode, but we just want to make a face-to-face connection and a smile. Sometimes, we'll see somebody who's really interested, and we'll ask them, 'Do you have a favourite?' The first one that we had was Good Christian Men Rejoice, which was my father's favourite carol, so it was lovely to sing it for her.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans of Toronto on Instagram.

Women ready to join U.S. rally

HUMAN RIGHTS

Washington bound in show of solidarity with others

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Huddled in front of the "O" in the Toronto sign, a group of local women are undeterred by the freezing temperatures.

It's good practice for what many of them will be doing in January when they travel to D.C. for a massive Women's March on Washington following Donald Trump's inauguration.

"It's going to be brutal but we're prepared," said organizer Penelope Chester from inside the hood of a parka.

The march is meant to support women and minorities, "to join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore," according to a mission statement on the event's webpage. Everyone, regardless of gender, is welcome.

Interest in the women's march has swelled since mid-November. Over 230,000 people have RSVP'd on Facebook, celebrities such as Amy Schumer have signed on, and solidarity marches are planned in cities around the world, including Toronto.

> **This is something that I'm passionate about.**
> Kristi Honey

The Toronto delegation convened on Nathan Phillips Square last week to film a video about why they're marching.

"I think it's really important to show that we collectively are watching and we're going to be vigilant during these next few years," said Chester, an American citizen living in Toronto.

It's not a protest against Trump, Chester stressed, but rather a show of solidarity with those who were targets of sexist and racist statements he made during his campaign.

Trump's election has emboldened white supremacist groups in the U.S. and there's been a wave of hate crimes reported.

"We're not going to stand for discrimination, for injustice," Chester said.

Many attending the march are more soccer moms than rabble-rousers, and in some cases, this will be their first protest.

"I've never advocated for anything in my life, but this is something that I'm passionate about because, if not me than who?" said Kristi Honey, a Canadian who plans on making the trek.

Organizer Marissa McTasney says they're organizing up to six buses from Toronto. Democrats Abroad will be sending another two buses. And if more people sign up, they'll find even more.

"We'll just keep going until there's no more room on buses and people are hanging off roof racks going across the border," McTasney said.

Toronto women are planning to trek to Washington.
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Tighten gun rules: Mayor

CRIME

Tory demands action from the federal government

Mayor John Tory is asking the federal government to close an "obvious gap" in firearms regulation that Toronto police say is putting more legally purchased Canadian guns into the hands of dangerous criminals.

"To put it simply, I want to get the guns out of the hands of those who choose to do harm and are hell-bent on disrupting our peaceful city," Tory writes in a letter to Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale.

Tory's written appeal to Ottawa comes as 2016 closes out with a spike in gun-related homicides and non-fatal shootings.

As of Sunday evening, 39 of Toronto's 67 homicides were gun-related, a five-year high though well short of the 52 gun deaths on city streets in 2005 when there were 78 homicides.

Last month, Toronto Star revealed how four different men in the GTA used their valid firearms licence to each purchase numerous handguns and diverted them to the black market.

They included a University of Toronto student who bought 23 handguns during a 22-month period, including 15 from one store. All were convicted and sent to prison for firearms trafficking.

A Toronto police briefing note prepared for city staff warned that serious "gaps" have turned domestic firearms trafficking into a "very real problem in Canada," and put some of the blame on the RCMP, the agency that administers the Canadian Firearms Program.

In a draft copy of Tory's letter to Goodale obtained by Torstar News Service Tory writes he finds it troubling that "certain licensed gun owners are able to amass small arsenals of handguns and that there are no red flags despite these purchases being registered on the Canadian Firearms Registry.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto police displayed weapons seized in Operation Sizzle earlier this year. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Far too few emergency shelter beds available to protect people from cold, street nurse says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

HOUSING FOR HOMELESS

Advocates call for emergency shelters

Cold winds, drifting snow and far too few shelter beds will result in serious injury or death on the streets, say advocates for the homeless who are calling on the city to open the armouries at Fork York and Moss Park.

"What is happening on the streets is dismal. There is no shelter space and the Out of the Cold (program) is full and we are abandoning people. The armoury would work," said Cathy Crowe, a long-time activist and street nurse, who is calling on Mayor John Tory to arrange for the two buildings to be opened as emergency shelter space.

"It is clear that it is going to be a long time until we see new housing allocated and built," or for more city shelters to open, Crowe told the Star.

The mayor's office directed questions to the city's shelter, support and housing administration division, but provided a letter sent to Crowe stating that city staff does not consider the armories "adequate" or "appropriate" for emergency shelter.

However, the city is working to make sure more shelter spaces are "brought online quickly" and to "find more appropriate places for vulnerable people," the letter says.

The mayor "cares deeply" about the issue and thanked Crowe for her leadership, staff concluded in the letter.

On Thursday, Crowe and members of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty marched through a snowstorm to draw attention to what they describe as a lethal lack of shelter beds and accessible warming spaces, and ultimately a desperate need for safe and affordable housing.

About 70 people trudged north on Bay Street, then east on Dundas Street, to a vacant two-storey building near the northeast corner of Yonge and Dundas, which they plastered with posters stating "This Should Be Shelter."

The chilling temperatures merited an extreme cold weather alert, a public warning sent out when temperatures drop to -15 C, or below, or register a wind chill of -20 C or lower. An alert was also issued for Sunday and Monday, when, with the wind chill it was forecast to feel like -18C.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY NEWS

22-year-old found shot dead in Weston is city's latest homicide victim

Toronto police have identified the victim of Toronto's 67th homicide of the year as 22-year-old Kareem Hastings. Hastings' body was found in the stairwell of a Weston neighbourhood building, at 2089 Lawrence Ave. W. A post-mortem exam revealed the cause of death as gunshot wounds.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Two men charged after woman sexually assaulted in Little Italy bar

Two men have been arrested after police say a woman was confined and sexually assaulted in a Little Italy bar Thursday. Police say the 24-year-old woman was given illegal drugs and alcohol inside the bar near College Street and Manning Avenue. She was forcibly confined in the bar and sexually assaulted, according to police. Carasco Enzo Dejesus, 31, and Gavin MacMillan, 41, both of Toronto, were arrested and charged with forcible confinement, sexual assault, and sexual assault as party to the offence with any other person in relation to the incident. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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LETTERS OF NOTE

A simple 'Thank you'

In the spirit of the season, I wanted to share an experience that happened Dec. 10 while I was in Toronto for the weekend.

I was wandering around the neighbourhood close to my hotel on Pembroke Street near Allan Gardens when a young lady walked up to me and asked me if we could talk.

She had obviously been crying. Her name was Holly. I was alone and figured it could do no harm. She told me that she had just been fired and was feeling pretty low. Having had a rough year myself, including the breakup of a long-term relationship and having a family member in hospital for a lengthy time, I was happy to lend an ear to someone who reached out to me, as random as it was.

I reassured her that life can and will get better.

We only talked for a few minutes, but they were minutes of my life that I will likely never forget. As she stood up to walk away, she gave me a hug and said two simple words that we take for granted so often: "Thank you."

Thank YOU, Holly. For making me remember the importance of taking a moment or two out of our busy and sometimes impersonal lives to be caring and compassionate to others — no matter if they are our best friends or complete strangers.

Merry Christmas. David Martin, Ottawa

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Michelle Obama at a state dinner in October wearing a floor-length, rose gold chainmail gown designed by Atelier Versace.
MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE RETAIL INSIDER

The conversation has to change

Nichole Jankowski
For Metro | Toronto

continued from p. 1

The conversation around clothing has to change. We have to start looking at fashion as a powerful economic engine with a vested interest in politics and government.

And, there's no time like the present. Because, right now, things aren't going so well.

According to the first State of Fashion report, co-published by Business of Fashion and McKinsey & Company, the world's economy "has not been this volatile since the depths of the financial crisis of 2009."

For the past decade, the industry has seen 5.5 per cent annual growth, according to the McKinsey Global Fashion Index, outpacing overall GDP expansion. But by the end of this year, growth is expected to have slowed to between two and 2.5 per cent. Sixty-seven per cent of the industry experts and executives surveyed for State of Fashion said conditions have worsened in the past year, and only 40 per cent think they'll get better in 2017.

The top challenge? Dealing with "uncertainty and shifts in the global economy," the report says. Purchases are emotional decisions and consumers do not spend in politically unstable times. Case in point: data from Slice Intelligence, which monitors electronic receipts of more than four million shoppers, reveals that states where Trump won the popular vote had the highest year-over-year gains in November for revenue from online apparel.

It all points to one cold hard fact: politics will play a big role in what a much-needed recovery for the fashion business looks like, when it happens and what retail looks like on other side.

The sooner we hold our political leaders accountable for how their decisions affect the sector, the better things will be for everyone who depends on it for either a living or, literally, the clothes on their backs.

Distillers up in arms

ENTREPRENEURS

They say new rules hamper growth of small biz

New rules for distillers in Ontario will allow some to keep more money from their own sales, but are otherwise stifling what could be a burgeoning industry in the province, some producers say.

Contained in an omnibus piece of legislation that passed on the last day of sitting for the legislature this year are changes to revenue margins for distillers with on-site retail stores. The government says the move from a Liquor Control Board of Ontario mark-up and commission to a tax structure will let those distillers keep more of their sales.

Under the mark-up structure, distillers kept about 39 per cent from their on-site sales — about $15.58 on a bottle that retails for $39.95 — and the tax structure allows them to keep about 45 per cent, amounting to roughly $2.46 more on that $39.95 bottle.

But, says Charles Benoit of the Ontario Craft Distillers Association, only a small number of distillers in the province are operating on-site retail stores.

Benoit — who says his Toronto Distillery Co. is closing next month — had been calling for the government to instead implement a graduated tax. He points to the model of British Columbia, where the first 50,000 litres produced by a craft distillery are exempt from provincial tax.

"There's dozens and dozens of prospective distillers who have been waiting on seeing the reform in Ontario like we've seen in other provinces before entering, so those will never get off the ground," he said.

Justin Frape, of Frape and Sons Boutique Bitters in Thunder Bay, said the government's changes — plus the high cost of electricity — have prompted him to open a distillery in Minnesota.

The Ontario government notes that other recent changes include allowing distillers to deliver directly to licensed bars and restaurants and tax exempting up to 1,250 litres of spirits distributed free for promotional use.

But Benoit, who is appealing an unsuccessful court challenge against the LCBO, said he can't understand why, if the government is willing to forgo the tax revenue on 1,250 litres, it wouldn't just allow distillers to sell that amount.

Drinks Ontario called the changes a "starting point," while the government said more help is on the way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BELLS ON BLOOR SANTA JINGLES DOWN THE STREET Herb van den Dool arrives as Santa Claus during Jingle Bells on Bloor cycling event, a chance to shop local while supporting the bike lanes, on Sunday. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

RECREATION

Rink ranks tops, says Fairmont chain

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

It may be freezing out but that doesn't mean you can't still enjoy the best of what Toronto has to offer, including, at least according to one list, the Nathan Phillips Square skating rink.

The popular skating destination was named one of the world's best outdoor rinks in a recent list by Fairmont Hotels and Resorts.

The rink drew praise for its "urban backdrop of bright city lights and a spectacular Christmas tree," and "particularly romantic" evening skating under lights from the Freedom Arches.

The mention includes a plug for nearby Hero Burgers, in case you work up an appetite on your skates.

Also named are Ottawa's Rideau Canal, Vancouver's Grouse Mountain Ice Skating Pond, and Alberta's Lake Louise.

Skaters go for a spin on the ice at Nathan Phillips Square. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

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See opposite page
for exclusions.

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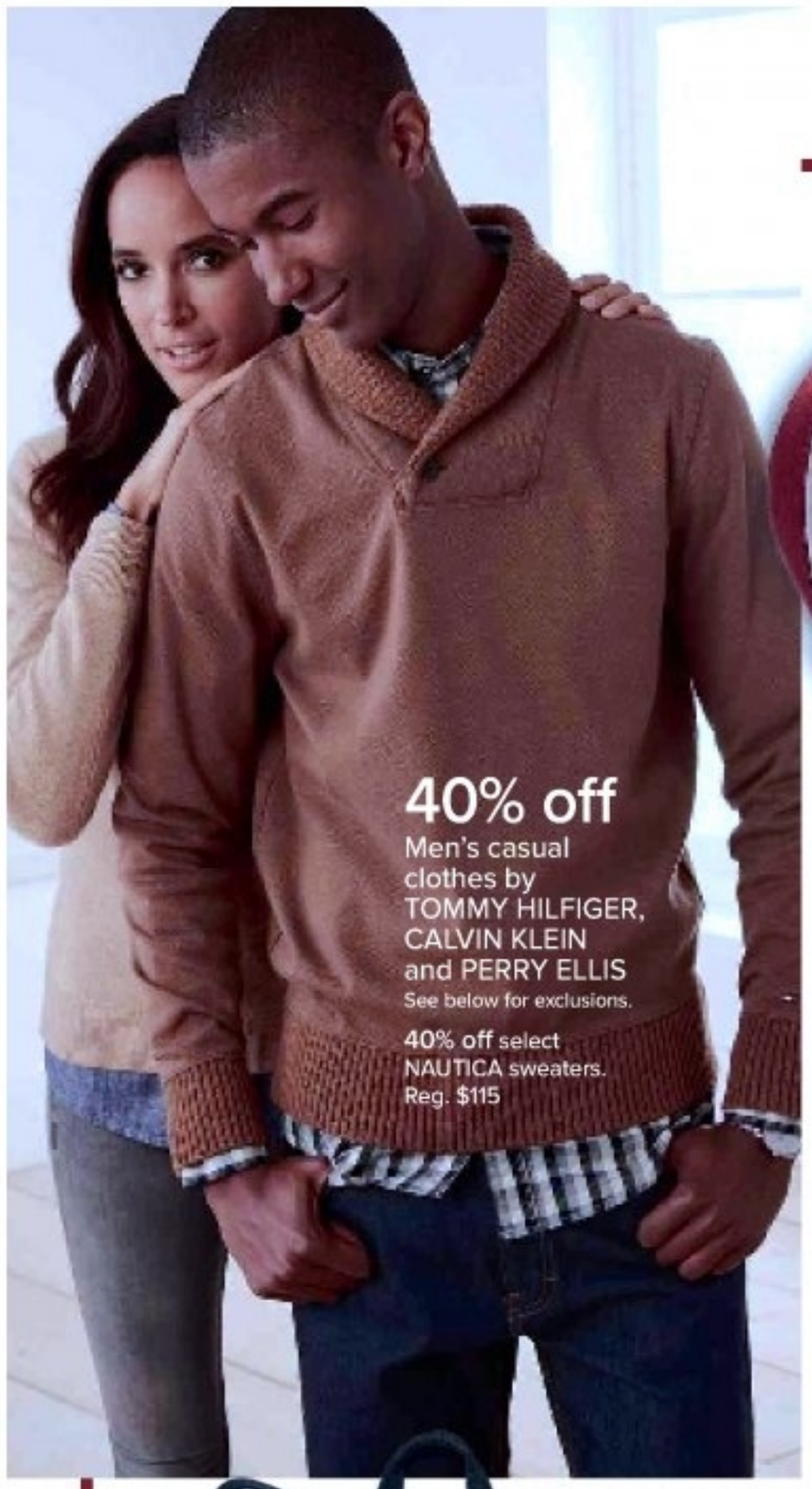

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IVY PARK joggers Reg. $70

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30% off IVY PARK activewear and accessories for women. Off our regular prices.
See below for details.

$69.99
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See opposite page for exclusions.

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50% off

Men's coats and jackets by LONDON FOG, POINT ZERO, F.O.G. BY LONDON FOG and PERRY ELLIS

40% off other casual outerwear; dress outerwear by LAUREN RALPH LAUREN, BLACK BROWN 1826 and LONDON FOG; hats, gloves, scarves, wallets, belts and bags for men.
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While quantities last.

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$102 **VERSACE** Dylan Blue eau de toilette spray, 100 mL

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$110 **GIVENCHY** Hot Couture eau de toilette spray, 100 mL

$122 **GIVENCHY** Live Irresistible eau de parfum spray, 75 mL

YOUR GIFT

Receive this GIVENCHY hand towel, *FREE* with the purchase of any large-size fragrance of 75 mL or more from the GIVENCHY men's fragrance collection.

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HUDSON'S BAY

Airbnb's *very* unlikely hot spot

ROCKCLIFFE-SMYTHE

Critics question choice, call it 'distraction' from problems

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Move over Queen Street West, there's a new "neighbourhood to watch" in Toronto — at least according to Airbnb.

The short-term rental company has named Rockcliffe-Smythe, a mostly residential area just north of The Junction, to its list of 17 neighbourhoods around the world expected to be trending with travellers for 2017.

The neighborhood placed sixth on the list, which also includes places like Melbourne and Miami.

The list is based on neighbourhoods "around the globe where bookings are growing particularly fast," Aaron Zifkin, regional director of American operations at Airbnb, wrote in an email to Metro.

All of the locales share similar themes, said Zifkin, including "urban, but not dense, green spaces and food options galore."

"Rockcliffe-Smythe, for example, was once home to gravel pits and a meat packing plant, but now the neighborhood boasts beautiful green spaces, nearby shopping and countless dining options," he added.

Thorben Wieditz, a researcher with Unite Here Local 75, which represents hospitality workers, and a member of Fairbnb, a coalition pushing for Airbnb regulation, called the list "a distraction."

497%

According to Airbnb, Rockcliffe-Smythe saw 497 per cent growth in inbound guest arrival listings from 2015-16.

Wieditz said that according to independent data from the website InsideAirbnb, there are only 48 listings in the neighbourhood.

"It is a drop in the bucket that distracts us from the real problems in Toronto," he said.

In contrast, the waterfront has 1,924 listings and the Bay Street corridor has 399.

Wieditz and other members of the Fairbnb coalition say Airbnb takes a bite out of affordable rental housing in downtown neighbourhoods, despite selling a "narrative" that they flourish in areas with lots of single-family homes. Like, for example, Rockcliffe-Smythe.

Max Meyer, out walking in a park last week that Google Maps considers the heart of the neighbourhood, was surprised to hear about all the fuss.

"What do people do when they come here?" he asked. "I like this neighbourhood just fine. I just don't know who would travel here."

One of these is not like the others: The sleepy Rockcliffe-Smythe area of Toronto, top left, has been named one of the "neighbourhoods to watch" in 2017 by Airbnb, alongside far more bustling locales like, clockwise from top right, Miami's Midtown district, Seoul's hip Daehangno neighbourhood in South Korea, and the bohemian borough of Fitzroy in Melbourne, Australia.
EDUARDO LIMA/METRO AND WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/CC BY-SA 2.0

+ POPULATION

Slowly evolving neighbourhood

Rockcliffe-Smythe is home to about 23,000 people, according to stats from 2011. It's bordered to the north by Eglinton Avenue West and to the south by St. Clair Avenue West.

A July 2016 Torstar News Service article described the neighbourhood as "slowly evolving from gritty to gentrified."

VOLUNTEER

Students give up holidays to help locals in India, Egypt

While their classmates head home for the holidays, a handful of university students from Toronto will be spending much of their winter break in villages in India and Egypt, teaching locals how to build and sell affordable water filters.

The goal of the two small teams from Ryerson University is to help improve access to clean water while also providing local residents with an entrepreneurial education that can kickstart individual businesses.

"What makes the holidays special for me is the act of giving.... The most essential thing that I could give is something that I think should be a human right, the gift of water," said Samarth Arabastani, a third-year electrical engineering student who is leading the project heading to India.

"Although I'm not going to be at home with my family, I will be giving to so many people and I think that's what the holidays are essentially about."

The two student initiatives — Project Saaf and Project Myaah — are part of the Ryerson chapter of a non-profit organization known as Enactus, which aims to use entrepreneurial action to transform lives.

"What makes the holidays special for me is the act of giving.
Samarth Arabastani

The idea for Project Saaf grew out an innovation challenge held at Ryerson last November, where teams were challenged to provide a sustainable solution to a social problem in India.

"That really connected with me because I was born in India and I moved here about eight years ago," said Arabastani, 20. "We created Project Saaf to tackle water sanitation."

Four of the project's six team members are travelling to the state of Gujarat in western India later this month to spend about two weeks running workshops that will teach financial literacy skills, banking basics and the essentials of water sanitation.

The team will then select a number of potters for specialized training on building and selling a water filtration device from local materials, Arabastani said, noting that those individuals will be given micro-loans to get started.

About a month ago, however, the project had to update its workshops to include an increased emphasis on financial and banking education.

That came after India's prime minister abruptly scrapped the country's highest-denomination currency notes — which made up the majority of cash in circulation — to combat corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and counterfeiting.

The situation has hit rural villagers particularly hard in a country where the majority of transactions are conducted in cash, Arabastani said, noting that many don't have bank accounts, keeping their money at home instead. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TRANSIT

Byford says budget is 'not sustainable'

As part of what Andy Byford has called the "most protracted, toughest budget" process of his four-year tenure, the TTC CEO will go before the city's budget committee on Monday to outline the transit agency's 2017 financial plans.

According to the preliminary budget for the TTC, the outlook for next year is this: passengers will pay higher fares for transit service that is the same or slightly worse than this year, even as the city invests more to cover the agency's growing costs.

And though the plan before the committee would push the TTC's annual operating budget to almost $2 billion in 2017, the funding strategies employed to get it there will do little to ensure the transit system's long-term stability.

According to TTC chair Josh Colle, the agency has done "a stellar job of trying to contain costs" but it's clear Toronto needs "more dependable, reliable funding" for public transit.

Council is expected to vote on the budget for all city departments in February.

One of the big questions the TTC is facing headed into next year is: Has the TTC met Mayor John Tory and city council's request to cut its net operating budget by 2.6 per cent?

The answer is no. Although Tory threatened to call in a task force to comb the TTC's books for savings, officials at the transit agency and in mayor's office privately conceded months ago that the TTC wouldn't be able to meet the 2.6-per-cent target without politically unpalatable service cuts.

In addition, the TTC employed one-time "bridging" strategies like exhausting a $14.4-million reserve fund, saving on the delayed implementation of the Presto system, and a $5-million unallocated cut the source of which has yet to be identified.

Byford said the agency had "preformed a minor miracle" to reduce its shortfall, but warned that the one-time strategies "are not sustainable."

"We have turned over every stone. Just about all discretionary spending has been eliminated. We're scraping the barrel," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Parody TTC merch store is going legit

RETAIL

But items 'may experience longer than normal' wait

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

If you're reaching for a last minute stocking stuffer for your favourite grumpy commuter, you're in luck.

Just weeks after the TTC unveiled its own online merchandise store, a parody version has popped up.

Dubbed Not In Service, the store offers mugs, T-shirts and buttons emblazoned with the "ding, dang, dong" sounds of the subway chimes or the phrase every rider dreads: "you may experience longer than normal travel times."

> **Hopefully it's something that everyone can laugh at.**
> Marty Hoefkes

The website was started by Toronto friends Marty Hoefkes and Mike Morelli as a joke, but after their fake store went viral online, they're scrambling to make it a reality.

"We don't really know many people who really love the TTC, it seems more like people complain about, whether rightly or wrongly," Hoefkes told Metro.

TTC spokesperson Milly Bernal said the agency wouldn't be commenting on the parody store.

Not In Service's merchandise is a spoof on the TTC's recent line of swag. CONTRIBUTED

Hoefkes said he feels "a tiny bit bad" for poking fun at the TTC, which he feels "gets a bad rap" sometimes.

"It seems like they're kind of a pincushion for Toronto's transit anger, whether it's biking or even driving," he said.

Hoefkes is reaching out to a handful of local boutiques to try and get their goods in store before Santa stocks his sleigh. However, he can't guarantee Not In Service goods will arrive by Dec. 25.

"The joke is that it's going to arrive late," he said.

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Canadian among the dead in Jordan attack

MIDDLE EAST

Nine others also killed, another from Canada injured

Gunmen ambushed Jordanian police in a series of attacks Sunday, including at a Crusader castle popular with tourists, killing a woman visiting from Canada, seven officers and two local civilians, officials said.

CBC News has reported the Canadian killed was Linda Vatcher, 62, of Burgeo, N.L. The retired teacher was in Jordan on vacation. Among the 34 people wounded is Vatcher's son Chris, who works in the Middle East.

Sunday's attack is one of the bloodiest attacks in Jordan in recent memory.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion offered the government's condolences to the victims' families.

Security forces stand at the scene of an attack in the central town of Karak, Jordan, on Sunday. BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security officials said in a statement late Sunday that at least four gunmen were killed and that troops continued to search the area. The statement said large amounts of weapons had been seized. It made no reference to local media reports that at one point, the attackers had held hostages.

The shootings were the latest in a series of attacks that have challenged this pro-Western kingdom's claim to be an oasis of calm in a region threatened by Islamic extremists.

The killing of the Canadian tourist could further hurt Jordan's embattled tourism sector, which has declined sharply since the Islamic State group seized large parts of neighbouring Syria and Iraq two years ago.

After the attack, the Canadian embassy in Jordan tweeted a warning to Canadians, advising them against all travel to Karak until further notice.

Linda Vatcher CONTRIBUTED

The federal government said in an emailed statement Sunday afternoon that Canadian officials were working with local authorities to gather information.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks in and near the central town of Karak, about 140 kilometres south of the capital, Amman. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWFOUNDLAND

Mystery solved next door

Edward "Kip" Malone was dogged by the "mystery" of what happened to two girls he rescued from a house fire in St. John's in 1951, only to find the answer living right next door.

After four decades in Ontario, 77-year-old Malone returned to Newfoundland this fall to retire in Conception Bay South. The Malones were welcomed by neighbour Margaret Fowler. Malone found they hailed from the same part of St. John's, and he had an interesting story.

On Dec. 20, 1951, Malone was walking past a row of houses, when he rescued two girls from a fire. Malone says he ran up the stairs and grabbed a five-year-old girl, who refused to leave without her sister. He waded through the haze into another room where he found a three-year-old and hauled the sisters outside.

"It was always a mystery to me what became of (the girls)," Malone said. "I had never laid eyes on these people since."

Listening to Malone, Fowler said she got goosebumps. She reached over to give Malone a hug. "I was that little girl," Fowler told him. "I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for you." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former prison may go from jail to sail

The federal government is being asked to speed up the pace of redevelopment of the land and buildings that once comprised Canada's most notorious prison to make room for a top-notch sailing school.

A local group has put forward a $300-million redevelopment plan for Kingston Penitentiary that would see the jail along the shores of Lake Ontario turned into an elite training centre for Canadian sailors, alongside a new wind power research institute.

The group, which includes former Olympic sailor John Curtis, former Kingston mayor Harvey Rosen and George Hood, a one-time head of fundraising at Queen's University, has been working on the idea since the last inmate left Kingston Pen in 2013.

The proposal would open up the facility to the water by tearing down all but the northern wall with the large, heavy, barred doors at the prison's entrance. Inside the property would be two museums documenting the jail's controversial history, as well as new commercial space and condominiums. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suicide blast kills dozens in Yemen

TERRORISM

Daesh affiliate claims attack that targeted military camp

A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a military camp in the southern Yemeni city of Aden on Sunday morning, killing at least 52 soldiers, a security official said. Daesh's Yemen-based affiliate claimed responsibility.

Abdel-Rahman al-Naqeeb said 63 people were also injured in the blast. Security officials said that preliminary investigations showed the blast was the work of a bomber wearing an explosives-laden vest. The attack took place as soldiers lined up to collect their salaries, they said.

The Daesh affiliate claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement posted on Daesh-run Aamaq news agency. It identified the bomber as Abu Hashim al-Radfani and published a photo of him smiling and wearing a white vest as he stood next to the group's black flag. It also posted photos it said were of the blast that it claimed killed nearly 70. It was not possible to immediately verify the claim.

The bombing was the latest to underscore how militants have been able to exploit Yemen's conflict to stage large-scale attacks and expand their reach, particularly in the south.

Sunday's blast took place at the same military base that was also struck by a suicide bomber on Dec. 10, killing 57 soldiers. The IS Yemeni affiliate also claimed responsibility for that attack.

In August, another IS-claimed suicide bombing in Aden left 72 people killed when the attacker detonated his pick-up truck among dozens of pro-government recruits. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers gather the site of a suicide bomb at a base in the city of Aden, Yemen, on Sunday. WAEL QUBADY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zsa Zsa Gabor dead at 99

Zsa Zsa Gabor, the jet-setting Hungarian actress and socialite who helped invent a new kind of fame out of multiple marriages, conspicuous wealth and jaded wisdom about the glamorous life, has died. She was 99.

The middle and most famous of the sisters Gabor died Sunday of a heart attack at her Bel-Air home, her husband, Prince Frederic von Anhalt, said.

Gabor had been hospitalized repeatedly since she broke her right hip in July 2010 after a fall at her home. She already had to use a wheelchair after being partly paralyzed in a 2002 car accident and suffering a stroke in 2005. Most of her right leg was amputated in January 2011 because of gangrene and the left leg was also threatened. Her misfortunes were duly reported to the media by von Anhalt.

The great aunt of Paris Hilton and a spiritual matriarch to the Kardashians, Simpsons and other tabloid favourites, she was the original hall-of-mirrors celebrity, famous for being famous for being famous. Starting in the 1940s, Gabor rose from beauty queen to millionaire's wife to minor television personality to minor film actress to major public character. With no special talent, no hit TV series such as her sister Eva's Green Acres,

Zsa Zsa Gabor in 1986. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zsa Zsa nevertheless was a long-running hit just being Zsa Zsa — her accent drenched in diamonds, her name synonymous with frivolity and camp as she winked and carried on about men, dahling, and the droll burdens of the idle rich.

Gabor, sisters Eva and Magda, and their mother, Jolie, emigrated to America around World War II. Zsa Zsa gained notice when she became the wife of Conrad Hilton, whom she married in 1942 and by the following decade all the Gabors were celebrities.

In 1998, cultural historian Neal Gabler diagnosed her kind of celebrity as The Zsa Zsa Factor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WORLD NEWS

3-year-old boy killed in road-rage incident

A three-year-old boy being taken on a shopping trip by his grandmother was killed in a road-rage shooting when a driver opened fire on the grandmother's car because he thought she "wasn't moving fast enough at a stop sign," police said.

The boy and his grandmother were at a stop sign in Little Rock on Saturday when a driver stepped out of his car and opened fire, police said. The boy was taken to a hospital, where he died shortly after. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump says China should keep U.S. military drone

China says it seized a U.S. Navy unmanned underwater glider in the South China Sea, but will give it back, despite President-elect Donald Trump saying they should be told "we don't want the drone they stole back" and "let them keep it!"

This comes after the U.S. confirmed that they "secured an understanding" for the return of the device. Trump's tweet may extend one of the most serious incidents between the American and the Chinese in years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

'Atrocities' feared for those still in Aleppo

France struck a compromise Sunday with Russia on a UN resolution that it said would prevent "mass atrocities" in besieged areas of Aleppo, where thousands of trapped civilians and rebel fighters await evacuation in freezing temperatures.

On the ground, prospects for swift evacuations from Aleppo and other besieged areas were thrown into doubt again Sunday after militants burned buses assigned to the rescue operation.

The Aleppo evacuations were to have been part of a wider deal that would simultaneously allow more than 2,000 sick and wounded people to leave two pro-government villages that have been besieged by Syrian rebels. Most villagers are Shiite Muslims, while most rebels are Sunni Muslims.

Six buses that were among those poised to enter the villages of Foua and Kfarya on Sunday were set on fire by unidentified militants, presumably to scuttle any deal.

A video posted online showed armed men near the burning buses as celebratory gunshots rang out. "The buses that came to evacuate the apostates have been burned," the narrator of the video said. He warned that no "Shiite pigs" would be allowed to leave the towns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke rises from government buses, in Idlib, Syria on Sunday. SANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Monday, December 19, 2016

URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

My girlfriend says I have an obligation to visit my drinking buddy's new baby. Is she right?

Dear Ellen,

My best drinking buddy and his wife had a baby a few weeks ago, so he's basically under house arrest for the foreseeable future. I ran into him at a work thing and congratulated him. Now my (sort of) girlfriend tells me I'm socially obligated to go see the actual baby. She seemed incredibly shocked I haven't visited already. Seriously? I have no interest in kids, and doubt the baby gives a diaper-load whether I show up or not. But I don't want to offend anyone either. What's the etiquette here?

Dave

Dear Dave,

Yes, you must go see the baby.

You are right to assume the baby will have as much interest in you as you have in it: zero. In fact, I have a clear mental picture of the entire encounter. Based on nothing more than your clueless attitude and an old boyfriend of mine named Dave, I see you as a man-child-about-town who likes a drink, considers shaving optional and is a good buddy but an undomesticated nightmare of a boyfriend. I imagine your stubbled mug looming over the crib as you exhale alcoholic fumes left over from the previous night's debauchery, while the small human blob trapped by your gaze immediately bursts into tears of terror and disgust.

I must confess, I myself did not appreciate how important this point of etiquette was until I had my own baby.

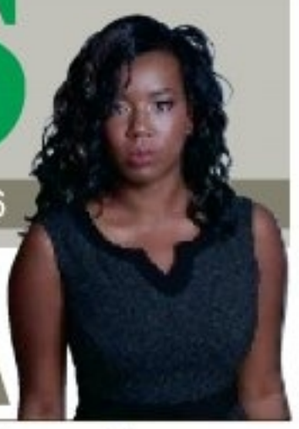
So be it. The kid will survive, and you will have done your duty. No one is expecting you to forge any kind of meaningful relationship with the blob (assuming you're even capable of forming any kind of meaningful relationship). What we do ask is that you politely honour your friend and his wife's gigantic rite of passage by making an effort to show up.

I must confess, I myself did not appreciate how important this point of etiquette was until I had my own baby. Obviously, close friends and family came by. But I found myself deeply touched when less-close friends and acquaintances also took the trouble to visit or send cards and gifts from afar. It bolstered my nervous-new-mom confidence to share the joy of my daughter's arrival in the world, and the superstitious side of me (which often appears in even the most skeptical of first-time mothers) took all the well-wishing as valuable deposits to a good-luck account that I suddenly realized all children needed in a world that suddenly seemed full of peril.

A small gift is also in order — some kind of stuffie or board book easily obtainable online or from a store recommended by your long-suffering, better-mannered, "sort-of" girlfriend.

If you need to brace yourself any further, please don't use alcohol to do so. Just YouTube "Seinfeld ugly baby" and watch the clip where Jerry and Elaine go to the Hamptons to visit friends who have a hideous newborn infant. If those self-absorbed losers can muster the manners to pretend the baby is cute and worth viewing, I'm sure you can too.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



VICKY MOCHAMA

We were promised flying cars; we got a potato chip golden age

This is the future we've been waiting for, and man, is it disappointing.

We spent decades watching feature packages on the nightly news that breathlessly fawned over robots from Japan and cars with abstract design concepts like see-through tires and free will. Yet I still have to take out my own garbage.

(The dog robots were, I think, a mistake. Who wants something with none of the physical ability of a dog, a third as much charm, and one battery too many? If the death of a family dog is traumatic, imagine the emotional havoc of one that powers down midwalk.)

There are plenty of marvellous things about this present world. Nothing but good things can be said of the explosion of potato chip flavors. Entire families have been saved from misadventure and divorce by never having to open a paper map thanks to GPS. Hosannas should be sung to the twin saviors of Google and Apple for sparing countless dinner parties or meetings from devolving into terminal awkwardness through the misapplication of facts.

So, yes, there is a great deal of good by our present technological standards. I am bad enough at texting to know that I would have been a terrible letter writer.

But what happened to all the cool gadgets and experiences we were supposed to have? Why did the end of the space race mean that hover boots are no longer necessary? The Russians may no longer be the enemy (well, maybe; stay tuned), but why does that mean my house cannot casually greet me when I return home via the Tube — that is, a tube that digitally transports humans?

I understand the Cold War was a scary time. Nuclear destruction lurked, spies were everywhere, and the hopes of nations rested on their children's ability to learn math. But we in the West were working towards something at least. America was perfecting the school bully routine that would make it both the beloved high school quarterback of the last half-century and the current hustling salesman for a declining corporation ("Slide joyfully into crushing death. Go. With Visa.")

Canada was right alongside, auditioning for the role of high school sweetheart by softening squabbles, making peace where possible, and being a laid back, less athletic Australia. Australia reached peak whiteness by getting very good at cricket, rugby, surfing and marginalizing aboriginals. And the Europeans pulled slowly out of post-war penury and straight into state-sponsored vacationing. As a group, we flourished.

And then we didn't. Neofascism in Europe, Brexit, Trump, whatever is probably going wrong in Australia: Something seems to have gone terribly wrong in the West and I, for one, blame the fact that my crossword app drains my phone battery.

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Your essential daily news

Julia Roberts to star in her first small-screen project, an adaptation of Today Will Be Different

New lice policy has parents itching

ISTOCK

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Bugging over a more relaxed approach to nits in schools

Genna Buck
Metro Canada

It's a problem that bugs just about every family with school-age kids at some point.

Pediculosis, a.k.a. head lice, is icky, uncomfortable and hard to prevent. But it's not serious or a cause of disease.

And these days, lice-infested youngsters are, mostly, allowed to be in school — a policy that would have been unthinkable in their parents' day.

Tara Auger of Belleville, Ont., was so infuriated when her six-year-old daughter came home with head lice that she paid a visit to her local school board office and health unit this month, child in tow, to make a point.

"The school board was not excited to see me as I brought my daughter with active head lice into the building and allowed her to rub her head onto their chairs and couches. It shouldn't bother them ... since they are allowing kids to pass it around at schools on a daily basis," she wrote in a Facebook post that was shared over 550 times. "If they aren't going to force kids to stay home then there is no motivation for some to treat their kids."

School boards around the country have been bringing their head lice procedures into line with the Canadian Pediatric Society's recommendations, which say there's no rational reason to exclude children with nits or live lice from school or daycare.

According to Dr. Carl Cummings, an author of the CPS lice guidelines, kids found to have live lice don't need to be picked up from school or day care immediately. They can be sent home at the final bell with a note asking parents to use an over-the-counter treatment to kill the critters, and return the next day. A second treatment is recommended in a week or two, just in case some eggs survived.

But some parents are itching to reinstate a traditional, aggressive "no-nit" rule instead. (The Toronto District School Board is an exception. It still has a "no-nit" policy, though it's under review).

Auger started a Change.org petition to bring federal Health Minister Jane Philpott's attention to the issue. It has 500 signatures. A similar one, started by someone else and addressed to Ontario education minister Liz Sandals, has more than 1,000. Facebook groups for parents lamenting the new, liberal approach to lice abound.

The main grouse about the louse: It's unfair to diligent parents that kids with untreated lice are allowed to be in the classroom, constantly re-infecting everyone around them.

Until recently, parents were required to comb out every last louse and egg (nit) before their child was allowed back at school. They were advised to wage war on lice at home: vacuum rugs and furniture, wash the whole family's clothes and bedding in hot water.

Auger said she missed several days of work and kept her daughter home while she went on an anti-lice tear, spending 10 hours in four days combing out nits ("It's basically torture") and cleaning her house top to bottom. The cost, including the treatments, the nit comb, dozens of loads of laundry and lost wages: about $500.

Dr. Cummings said going to such lengths to battle lice is — pun intended — "overkill."

No-nit policies were "creating an atmosphere of worry over something that is annoying, itchy and pretty gross, but in no way endangers anybody's actual health," he said.

Cummings admitted he'd be pretty "appalled" if parents neglect to treat head lice they've been notified about.

Yet it happens, says one Ontario kindergarten teacher, who didn't want to be named.

> **There is no motivation for some to treat their kids.**
>
> Tara Auger, who went to her local school board office after her daughter Cali came home with head lice

"Last year our school had one ... family (where) the parents just gave up on it."

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario takes no position on the issue, except that teachers' shouldn't be required to do lice checks. The kindergarten teacher favours a middle-ground policy: No-nits is too extreme, but "If there's live lice, the child should be home. Then it's a burden on everybody."

Like many teachers and parents, he doubts the experts' position that most lice spread by direct contact, and that nits alone aren't an infestation.

"I don't have any research base on that," he said. "It's sheer experience."

His school doesn't require kids to be lice-free or provide proof of treatment, but does send them home with a free bottle of medicated shampoo if necessary.

"Our whole society is pushing more and more on the school."

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ADVICE

No better time to take stock and get your money working

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Where the hell did 2016 go? Holy moley! And can you believe how easy it was to ignore the details of your financial life when everything was rushing past you like a sped-up movie scene.

Time to stop, take a breath, and take stock. Living in ignorance of what's worked and what hasn't is not the way to a successful 2017, which is just around the corner. So here we go:

1. Complete a net-worth statement. How do you feel about what you accomplished financially in 2016? What's the biggest financial concern you have right now? What one thing do you want to accomplish before another year rolls past?

2. Update your budget. Did you stick to plan? What should you tweak for 2017? Once you get comfortable living on a budget, you might also get complacent about costs that are going up. Is it time to do some trimming? Have prices risen in some areas of your budget, indicating that you need to trim in other areas to rebalance? Are there other changes — partnering, babies, job changes — that have taken place since you did your budget that you need to incorporate officially?

3. Review your debt repayment plan. Some people find it hard to imagine being debt free. But you can be. It may take another job to earn the extra money to get out of debt. But if that's what it takes, you can do it. Are you on target to be debt-free by a specific date? Is that date realistic? Do you have a debt-repayment plan in writing?

4. Assess your emergency savings. It takes small steps to get to where you want to be. Having six months' worth of essential expenses isn't a nice to have, it's a gotta have.

5. Look at your retirement plan. Are you taking advantage of the savings-matching program at work? Why the hell not? That's free money! Would you turn down a raise? If you don't have a work plan, then you must have an individual retirement savings plan.

The beginning of a new year is a perfect time to make sure you're financially on track. ISTOCK

6. Quantify your investment return. Are the investment choices you made still working for you? Are you well diversified? This would be a good time to adjust the investments that may have fallen out of whack with your goals and tolerance for risk.

7. Review your insurance coverage: car, property, life and disability. If you think insurance is a waste of money, answer me this: As if a life disaster isn't bad enough, would it be fair to you and your family to be financially wiped out at the same time?

8. Review your will. And how about your powers of attorney for both personal care and money? Have you named a guardian for your children? Have you reviewed this documentation in the last two years, or since your last major life change (marriage, divorce, moving, birth of a child)?

You work hard for your money. And at the same time, it should work equally hard for you. The beginning of the year is a perfect time to make sure you're on track and your money is doing what you want it to.

Time to stop, take a breath and take stock. Living in ignorance of what's worked and what hasn't is not the way to a successful 2017.
Gail Vaz-Oxlade

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Hard to find a better villain

THE SHOW: Die Hard (Hollywood Suite/IFC)
THE MOMENT: Enter the villain

Alan Rickman's brilliant performance helped turn Hans Gruber into a bad guy for the ages. CONTRIBUTED

Machine-gun wielding henchmen have just murdered all the security guards and taken over a half-finished skyscraper complex in Los Angeles called Nakatomi Plaza. (The tower is empty except for one office, where a Christmas party rages.) As the cold-blooded shooters enter the building manager's luxe office, they are led by a besuited dandy who is clearly their mastermind: Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman).

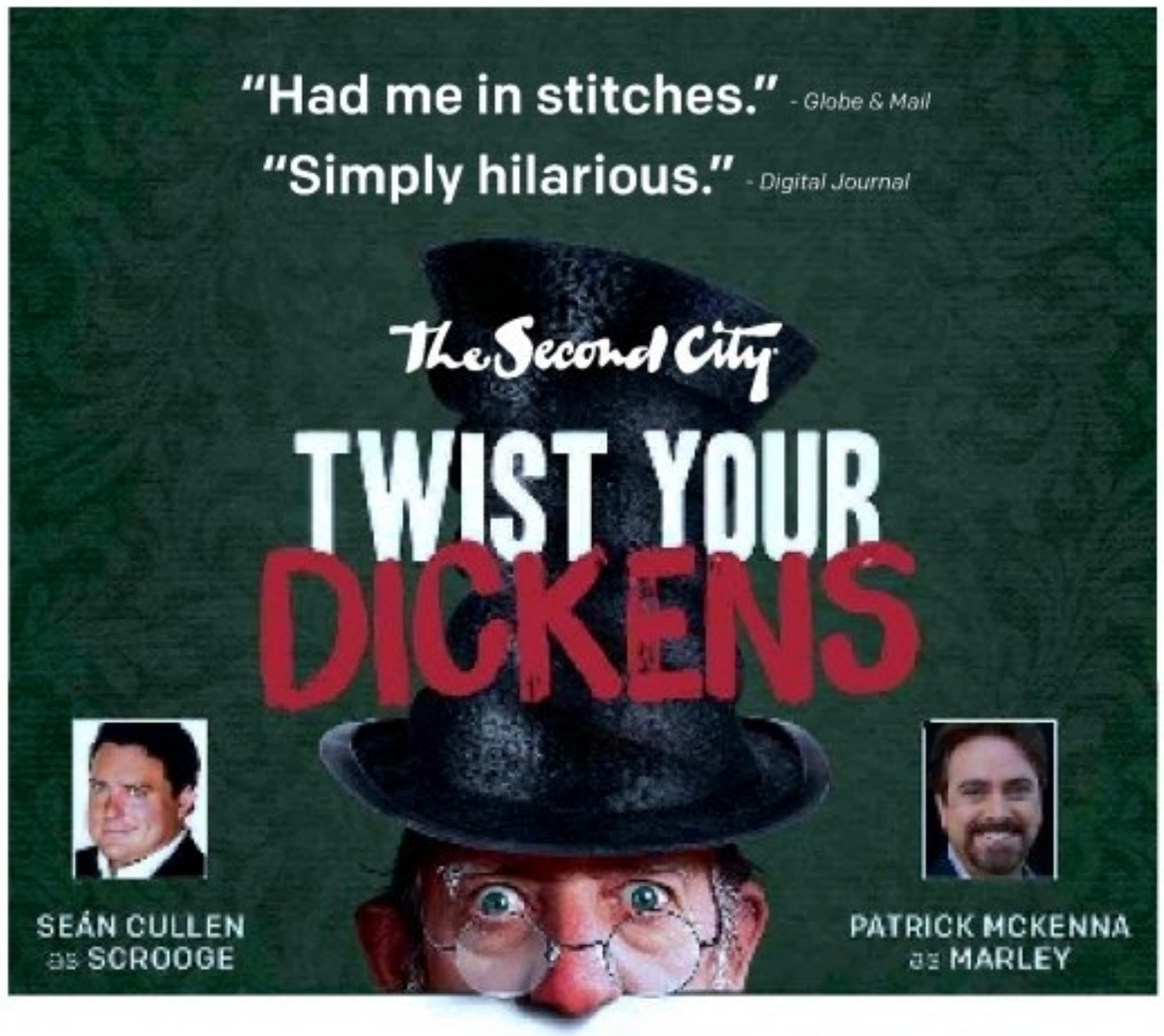
Gruber saunters in, his eye on a scale model of the plaza. In a delicate German accent, he intones this quotation, reputedly about Alexander the Great: "And when Alexander saw the breadth of his domain he wept, for there were no more worlds to conquer." Gruber's mouth curls ever-so-slightly upward as he adds to no one in particular, "The benefits of a classical education."

Now this is an entrance. With the briefest of strokes, screenwriters Jeb Stuart and Stephen E. de Souza establish exactly who their villain is: his heritage, drollery, languor, grandiosity, and certainty that he's the centre of attention.

This moment also puts him in exact opposition to our down-to-earth, all-American hero, John McClane, a 'Noo Yawk' cop who hates the hoity-toitery of L.A., yet who's been slightly unmanned by his more successful wife (Bonnie Bedelia). Gruber and McClane's face-off will be World War Two all over again, with McClane going full, Yippie-Ki-Yay cowboy.

Die Hard has become a holiday classic (Hollywood Suite showed it as part of their free, five-week fifth anniversary celebration, and IFC airs it Christmas Eve). Rickman made Gruber a villain for the ages.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



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Holiday Ideas

With just under a week to go before the holidays, you've managed to pare down your gift list to just a few last names. To help you cross off that hard-to-buy-for person, our editors from coast to coast have picked a unique, locally made gift. METRO

Edmonton's got edge

The J5 Table is Edmonton's answer to its critics. Edmonton is cool, hip and infused with a maker culture that many don't see from afar, and the J5 is that taken to new heights, hand made from concrete, wood and glass. Made by Ryspot Designs in Edmonton.

Available at: ryspot.bigcartel.com, $450

Political Circus, happening in Toronto

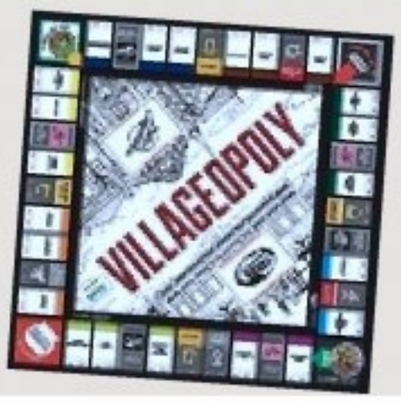
Toronto artist Gabe Thirlwall says popularity of her "political puppets" often mirrors opinion polls — the Justin Trudeau doll is still selling, although not as well as last year, and requests for Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne have dropped. Among this season's best-liked finger puppets, made by silkscreen on mixed textile, are defence minister Harjit Singh Sajjan and Calgary mayor Naheed Nenshi. The pop art project is called Political Circus, aimed at public engagement in politics. **Available at: Etsy/shop/PoliticalCircus, $15 each**

A little practicality coming from Ottawa

Purple Urchin sells environmentally friendly, handcrafted soaps. The Ottawa-based company has dozens of delicious scents to choose from and the prices are reasonable. This is a practical gift for even the most hard-to-shop-for person. **Available at: purpleurchinsoap.com, $5.99 per bar**

The Peg's hot market

Pass Wild Planet. Collect $200. In the Villageopoly board game — a version of Monopoly modelled after Canada's "great neighbourhood," Winnipeg's Osborne Village — you can own one of the strip's hip restaurants or boutiques. Proceeds go to the local Gas Station Arts Centre. **Available at: Call 204-284-9477 or email development@gsac.ca, $50**



Lobster-claw snowflake from the Maritimes

It doesn't get more Nova Scotian than Jampy Furniture's ocean-themed snowflake ornaments. All four designs, particularly the lobster claw, capture the unique flavour of the Maritimes. **Available at: facebook.com/jampyfurniture, $12.50 each or $45 for the set of four.**

Mismatched but looking good in Calgary

Calgary-based biz Friday Sock Company has your feet in mind — and they want them to stand out... by mismatching your socks! Canadian designed, these socks might not look exactly alike, but they look good together. **Available at: fridaysock.co, approximately $15 per set**

Radiating style in Vancouver

East Vancouver's Woodtype Shop creates custom made ultra-cool wooden signs (with lights) that radiate with warm, funky style. Choose the word, style, font, size and colour pallet and then just chill. **Available at: woodtype.ca, $750 (prices vary by sign)**

metro SPORTS

After their latest loss, the Jacksonville Jaguars fired Gus Bradley, ending the least successful coaching tenure (14-48, .225) in NFL history

DeRozan and Raptors leave Magic spellbound

NBA

Casey's men seal victory with dominant third quarter

DeMar DeRozan scored 31 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 16 points and 13 rebounds, helping the Toronto Raptors beat the Orlando Magic 109-79 on Sunday night.

DeRozan has scored at least 30 points in four straight games and 15 times overall this season.

Toronto exploded in the third quarter to open a 20-point lead and has scored 100 points in 14 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the NBA.

Toronto outscored the Magic 29-13 in the third quarter to break open a four-point halftime advantage.

Evan Fournier led the Magic with 15 points but was plagued by foul trouble trying to guard the more physical DeMarre Carroll.

The Raptors were explosive on offence behind DeRozan and Valanciunas.

DeRozan beat Aaron Gordon off the dribble and on pullup jumpers, and Valanciunas dominated his former teammate Bismack Biyombo in the post.

Toronto shot 49 per cent from the field and outrebounded Orlando 47-42.

Orlando, which dropped to 5-10 at home, struggled to match up against the Raptors defensively and continued its offensively futility.

The Magic went nine straight possessions without a basket during a stretch of the third quarter as the Raptors extended their lead to 17 points.

SUNDAY In Orlando

109	79
RAPTORS	MAGIC

Orlando converted just 41 per cent from the field and was 3-for-21 from three-point range.

Orlando coach Frank Vogel became so frustrated with his starters that he benched the entire unit in the fourth quarter.

Raptors guard Cory Joseph travelled with the team but did not suit up because of flu-like symptoms. Pascal Siakam had four blocked shots in the first half but also had four fouls before halftime.

Toronto returns home to the ACC with Brooklyn its opponent on Tuesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors guard Fred VanVleet shoots the ball over the Magic's Elfrid Payton at Amway Center in Orlando on Sunday. FERNANDO MEDINA/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

NHL

Crosby kept in check by Leafs

Sidney Crosby was a nightmare for the Maple Leafs when they first met the defending Stanley Cup champions earlier this season. It would be a different story on Saturday evening.

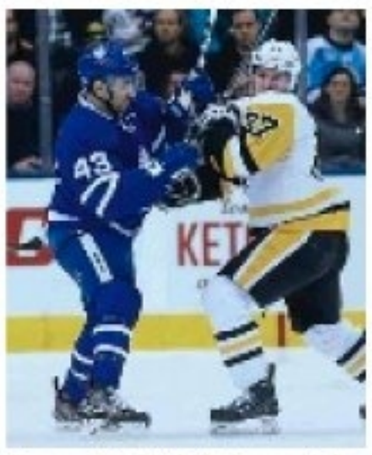
The Leafs held Crosby, who leads the NHL with 21 goals this year, to just two shots in a quiet 20 minutes. The 29-year-old notched an assist on the power play, but finished with a 33 per cent puck possession mark at even strength in Toronto's 2-1 overtime win.

It was just over a month earlier that the game's best player dominated the Leafs, finishing with two points, six shots, 70 per cent success in the faceoff circle (16-23) and almost 70 per cent puck possession.

Toronto lost 4-1 that night in Pittsburgh. Combating Crosby and his linemates, Conor Sheary and Patric Hornqvist, on Saturday was the matchup five-some customarily assigned to top lines for head coach Mike Babcock. That group includes the team's top defensive pair of Morgan Rielly and Nikita Zaitsev as well as a Nazem Kadri-led forward unit that currently features Leo Komarov and, of late, Connor Brown.

It was the same combination (save for Brown) that fared so poorly against Crosby in mid-November, but also one that's performed pretty well for Toronto of late. The group came out on top in matchups against top lines for Arizona, San Jose and Colorado, the Leafs dropping all three games thanks in large part to an offence that's gone cold.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nazem Kadri, left, keeps tabs on Sidney Crosby.

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SPEEDSKATING

Hamelin captures gold on short track

Charles Hamelin won gold and Charle Cournoyer took bronze in a men's 1,000-metre race as Canada claimed four medals Sunday at a World Cup short-track speedskating stop in Gangneung, South Korea.

The Canadian men's relay team collected a medal for the first time this season by earning silver, while the women's relay team won bronze as Canada ended the two-day event with nine medals.

"I really wanted to give everything to find my way onto the podium, find some confidence and get some good vibes in this building before leaving, because the next time we will come here, it will probably be during the Olympics," Hamelin said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charles Hamelin

GETTY IMAGES FILE

IN BRIEF

Gut rebounds to top super-G podium in France

Lara Gut bounced back in style from two poor displays to win a World Cup super-G race on Sunday for her third victory of the season and 21st career win.

The defending World Cup overall champion had failed to finish Friday's Alpine combined race and Saturday's downhill in Val d'Isere, France, dropping valuable points to current World Cup leader Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Torts burns former team for win No. 500

Seth Jones scored 46 seconds into overtime, and John Tortorella picked up his 500th victory as an NHL head coach on Sunday as the Blue Jackets defeated the Vancouver Canucks 4-3.

Brandon Saad, with two, and Cam Atkinson, with a goal and an assist, scored in regulation for red-hot Columbus (20-5-4), which has won nine in a row and has points in 11 straight games (10-0-1).

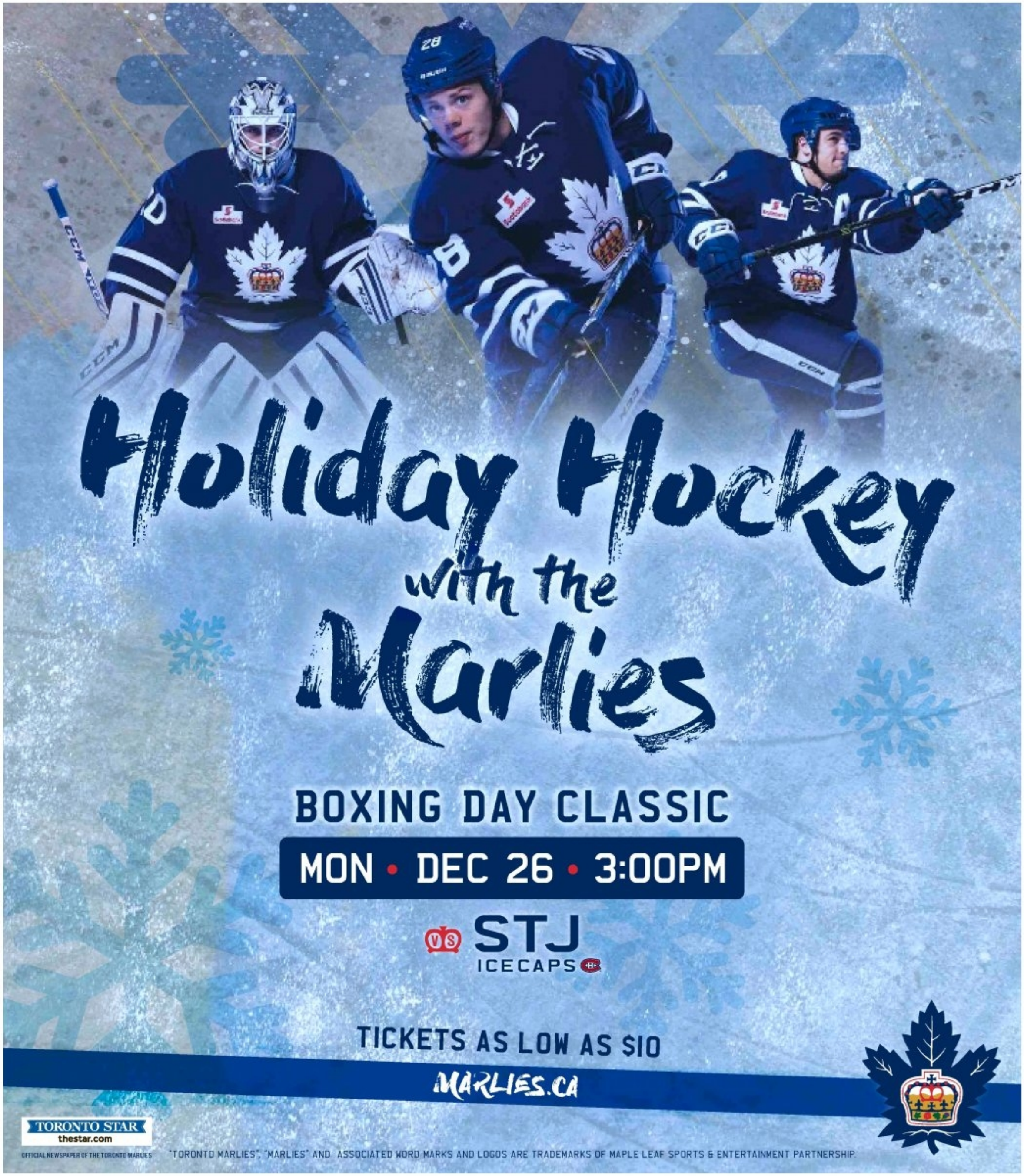
Sergei Bobrovsky made 14 saves for his league-leading 19th win of the season.

SUNDAY In Vancouver

4	3
JACKETS	CANUCKS

The all-time wins leader among American-born coaches, Tortorella's milestone came against the team he coached during the 2013-14 campaign.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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Packers put Bears on ice

NFL

Green Bay keeps its cool to win fourth straight game

SUNDAY In Chicago

PACKERS	BEARS
30	27

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers were rolling along with a big lead, looking as though they would take another step toward a playoff spot and the top of the NFC North.

Once it disappeared, they still found a way to pull out the victory.

Rodgers hit Jordy Nelson with a 60-yard pass to set up Mason Crosby's 32-yard field goal as time expired, lifting the Green Bay Packers to a 30-27 victory over the Bears in one of the coldest games (-11 C) ever played in Chicago on Sunday.

Wide receiver-turned-running back Ty Montgomery ran for a career-high 162 yards and two touchdowns and the Packers (8-6) earned their fourth straight victory despite blowing a 27-10 lead in the fourth quarter.

They also moved ahead of Minnesota for sole possession of second place in the NFC North and pulled within a game of division leader Detroit, with the Vikings getting pounded by Indianapolis and the Lions losing to the New York Giants.

"I think we have a lot of grit as a team," Rodgers said. "We stick together in adverse situations. There wasn't any finger pointing after 27-10 turned into 27-27 for either side. We just knew we had to go out and make something happen."

The Bears had tied it on a field goal by Connor Barth with 1:19 left. The Packers took over at their 27, and on third-and-11 at the 26, Rodgers unleashed a deep pass down the middle of the field to Nelson, who got behind Cre'Von LeBlanc.

With no timeouts, the Packers downed the ball before Crosby booted his winner.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Packers receiver Jordy Nelson hauls in a 60-yard reception ahead of the Bears' Cre'von LeBlanc on Sunday in Chicago.

JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Browns inch closer to winless season

With two games left, coach Hue Jackson is considering any and all options to prevent the Cleveland Browns from matching the NFL single-season record for futility.

"Everything's going to be on the table," Jackson said after the Browns fell to 0-14 following a 33-13 loss to the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. "I think I owe these guys the best opportunity to win."

The Browns have matched the second-worst start to a season, set by the 1976 Buccaneers and 1980 Saints. The 2008 Detroit Lions are the NFL's only team to go without a win in a 16-game season.

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IN BRIEF

Ronaldo tricks Antlers

Cristiano Ronaldo scored a hat trick on Sunday as European champion Real Madrid claimed its second Club World Cup title by beating brave and overachieving Japanese side Kashima Antlers 4-2 after extra time.

With the score at 2-2 in Japan after normal time, Ronaldo received a pass from Karim Benzema in the 98th minute and calmly fired under Kashima goalkeeper Hitoshi Sogahata to make it 3-2. The Portuguese star then sealed the win six minutes later. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunners shot down from behind

Leroy Sane of Manchester City, left, scores against Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday in Manchester, England.
CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal fall apart in second half after early Walcott opener

Raheem Sterling capped a rousing second-half comeback by Manchester City with the winning goal as Arsenal squandered a lead to lose 2-1 for the second time in five days in the English Premier League on Sunday.

The England winger collected Kevin De Bruyne's sensational cross-field pass before cutting inside and driving home a low finish in the 71st minute at Etihad Stadium.

Arsenal led through Theo Walcott's fifth-minute strike — another goal that raised questions about City's defensive frailties — before Leroy Sane equalized in the 47th with his first goal for City.

While City moved back to within seven points of first-place Chelsea, Arsenal dropped nine points off the leaders at the end of a week in which Arsene Wenger's team also lost after being 1-0 up at Everton on Tuesday.

"We were caught cold in the second half and we dropped physically," Wenger said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY in Manchester

2	1
MAN. CITY	ARSENAL

RESULTS

- Bournemouth 1 **Southampton 3**
- **Tottenham 2** Burnley 1

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Easy Cheese Pear Melt

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Our goal this week is fast and easy dinner. This grilled cheese is amped up with delicious extras like sliced pears and mushrooms and a hit of Dijon for zing.

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 1

Ingredients
- Butter
- Cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
- Pumpernickel bread
- Dijon mustard (optional)
- Fontina cheese, grated
- Pears, thinly sliced

Directions

1. In a skillet, melt a pat of butter over medium heat. Toss in sliced mushrooms and push around until they soften. Remove from pan and set aside. Wipe pan.

2. Butter bread (and swipe other side with a bit of Dijon) and place each piece in pan, butter side down. Place a handful of Fontina on each, then press down a couple of slices of pear, followed by a spoonful of mushrooms. Place another piece of pumpernickel on top, butter side out. Let sizzle 2 or 3 minutes, peeking at the underside with a spatula to ensure bread is toasting not burning. Flip.

3. Allow to grill for a couple more minutes then remove from the heat. Cut in half and serve warm.

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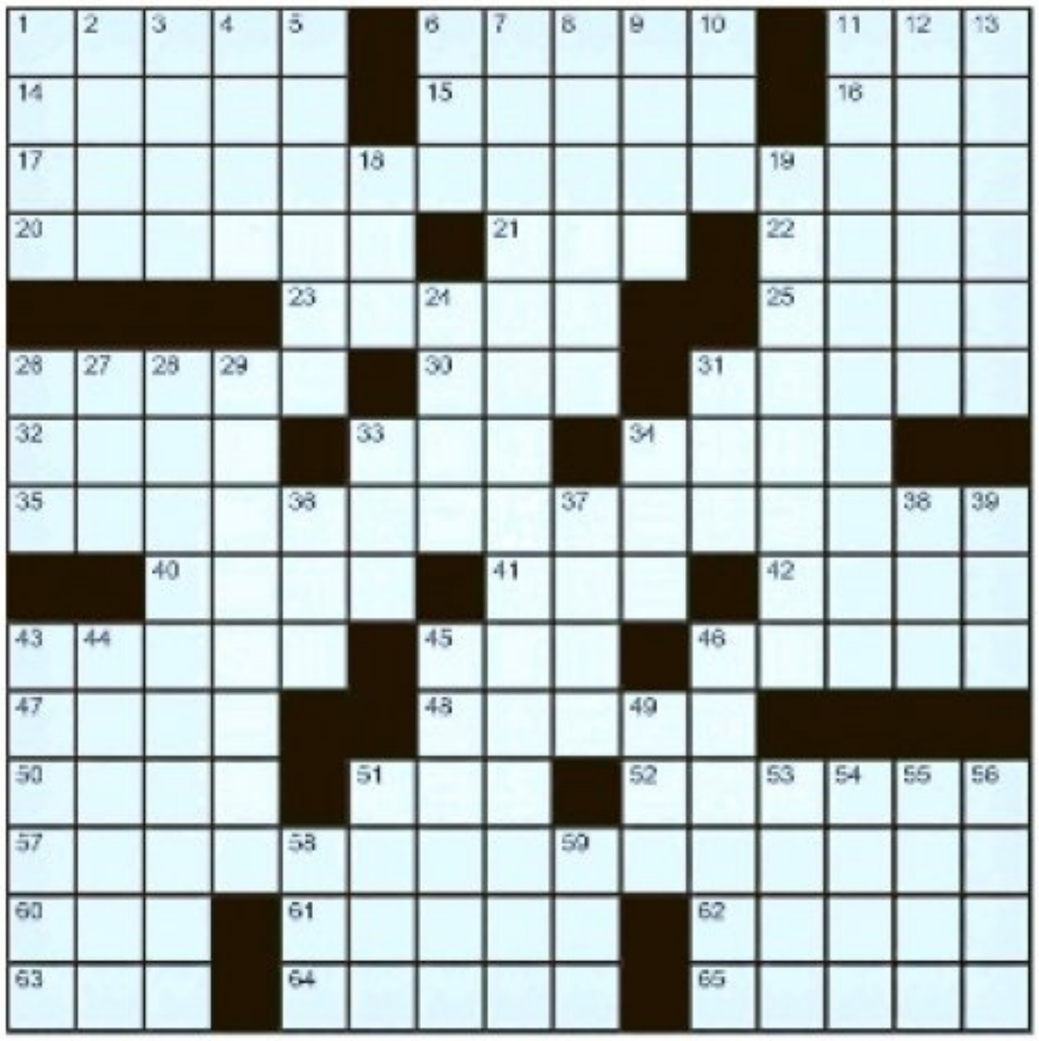

ACROSS
1. Jewelry fastener
6. Tropical beach gear
11. Boxer's size stat.
14. Broadcaster
15. Taboos
16. Charlemagne's li'l domain
17. Christmas Eve gifts for Santa: 3 wds.
20. Send word
21. Merriment
22. 'Meteor' suffixes
23. Serenity, __ peace
25. Filmmaker Ms. Riefenstahl
26. __ kit (Heath 'cleanse' purchase)
30. Water wiggler
31. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? playwright Edward
32. Story told backwards?
33. Food scrap
34. Latin hymn: "Dies __"
35. "Sleigh Ride" bit: "We're riding along with a song / Of a ____"
40. Christmastime
41. Wheat: French
42. Montana's motto, '__ Plata'
43. Krispy __ Doughnuts
45. Mr. Gore's
46. Swamp plant
47. Canadian hardware store
48. Respond
50. Book's ID
51. Ms. Messing, mini-ly
52. Rooming house tenant
57. Christmastime 'tis the what?: 4 wds.
60. Sigma's alphabetic follower
61. Lake __ (American ski resort area)
62. __ Lumpur, Malaysia
63. "Delish!"
64. City of Honshu in Japan
65. Suze __ (Personal finance TV personality)

DOWN
1. Cereal brand, __'_ Crunch
2. "__ & Stitch" (2002)
3. "How now, ___?" - Hamlet
4. Son of Ramses I
5. 'Hemi' or 'Micro', for example
6. Ski hill machine, __-Cat
7. Literary purchase that also serves as a home decor feature: 3 wds.
8. Straighten hair
9. Benefit
10. Mount __ (Volcano in Japan)
11. Santa Claus feature: 2 wds.
12. Canadian star Lorne of "Bonanza"
13. Music hall star Ms. O'Shea who shared the billing the famous night The Beatles first appeared on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964
18. Equivalent word [abbr.]
19. Eastern Ontario: The Township of __-Hagarty-Richards
24. Spongy toys brand
26. Mountain __ (Soft drink)
27. 'E' in REO
28. Christmas carol from Germany: "O __"
29. Living room pieces
31. 'Bound' suffix
33. Popeye's sweetie Olive
34. U2's li'l land
36. Riddle-me-__
37. Ingrid's celebrated movie role
38. Eggy Christmas beverage
39. Tie-__
43. Ms. Swanson of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" (1992)
44. Dominica's capital
45. Vocal legend Ms. Franklin
46. Canadian skater Elvis
49. Canadian actor Mr. Bennett
51. Scientific 'strands'
53. Sullen
54. 1970s music genre, __ Rock
55. "__ Enchanted" (2004)
56. Mr. Seacrest
58. It means 'Ear'
59. Maude's portrayer

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Grab every chance to travel, because you need a change of scenery. Likewise, you will love to learn something new if you take a course or study something unusual.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You can make headway clearing up loose details about shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. Just roll up your sleeves and dig in. Now is the time!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You can learn a lot about your style of relating to friends, spouses and partners at this time. Observe your style of dealing with those who are closest to you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You have a lot of stuff, and anything you do to help you feel better organized is a good thing. What can you do today to make your life run more smoothly?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You want to play and take time off from drudgery, even if it's just catching a game or going out for dinner or seeing a movie. You need some fun!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Because you will likely earn more money soon, this is a good time to think about how you can make home repairs. You also might be focused on a parent more than usual.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is a busy time for you, because short trips, reading, writing and talking to everyone will keep you on the go. Enjoy this accelerated pace.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It's important to know what your money situation is. How much do you own? How much do you make? How much do you owe? Knowledge is power.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Make the most of this time with three planets are in your sign. It's easy to attract positive situations now, which means you can come out on top.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You might want to hide for a few days, because you're not ready to step out into the world. When your birthday arrives, things will be different.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Enjoy your popularity with others now. Probably more than any other sign in the zodiac, friendships mean a lot to you.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Because you look so good to bosses and VIPs, use this time to go after what you want. Promote your own agenda. Speak up.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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				4			8	
				8			4	7
	4	9			2	7		
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	8						9	
		6	7	2	4	3		
			6		8			

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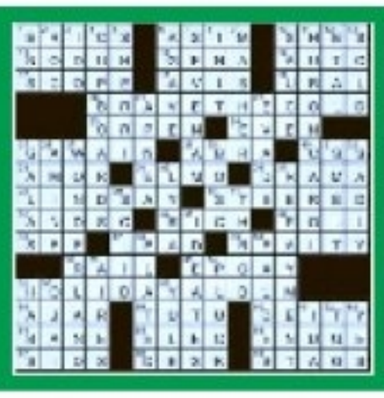

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1	6	3	5	7	4	8	2	9
2	8	7	3	9	6	4	1	5
7	3	6	9	4	8	1	5	2
8	2	9	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	1	4	7	6	2	3	9	8

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